



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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District of Arizona*

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PHOENIX MAN INDICTED FOR BANK FRAUD, AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT AND MAIL THEFT

PHOENIX – A federal grand jury in Phoenix returned an eight count indictment on December 12, 2006, against Hoyt John Parker, 44, of Phoenix, for bank fraud, aggravated identity theft, and possession of stolen mail.

The indictment alleges that Parker, using another person's identity, defrauded Washington Mutual Bank (WMB) by depositing multiple stolen checks into the victim's bank account at WMB, and in the same transaction, requesting a portion of the deposit back in the form of cash. To gain access to the victim's account, Parker posed as the victim, using the victim's name, social security number, and a counterfeit driver's license in the victim's name. Parker acquired the checks, which he negotiated at WMB, by stealing them from the U.S. Mail.

A conviction for bank fraud carries a maximum penalty of 30 years imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$1,000,000. A conviction for aggravated identity theft carries a two year mandatory term of imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$250,000. A conviction for possession of stolen mail carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$250,000. In determining an actual sentence, the sentencing district court judge will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by Postal Inspectors John Danks and Chris White of the United States Postal Inspection Service. The prosecution is being handled by Robert Long, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-1112-PHX-FJM
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